

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 were pending in this application and were subject to a restriction requirement. By this amendment and reply, claims 1 - 22 have been canceled without prejudice and new claims 23 to 30 have been added. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by way of this amendment.

The undersigned wishes to express his appreciation to Examiner Mary Beth Jones for her time and attention given during a telephone interview on November 6, 1997. During the interview, Examiner Jones noted that since the species of Figures 16A-D was not previously claimed, the species was not identified, but noted that claims relating to the species may be considered in this application. Accordingly, notice is hereby given that applicant elects the patentably distinct species of Figures 16A-D and requests consideration of claims 23-30. Applicant expressly reserves the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the nonelected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance and requests early notice to that effect. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, a telephone call to the undersigned at (650) 813-5754 will be appreciated.

Dated: November 6, 1997

Respectfully submitted,

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